GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4194
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016
Advisory Committee for Power Issues
Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has set up any Advisory Committee to discuss the issues relating to power sector and to suggest reforms, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the said committee has submitted its recommendations to the Government, if so, the salient features of the recommendations; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to implement the recommendations of the committee?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER,
COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b) : In order to expedite resolution of various issues related to Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Power, an "Advisory Group for Integrated Development of Power, Coal and Renewable Energy" was set up under the chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhu (now Union Minister for Railways) in the year 2014. The Advisory Group has submitted its report on 22nd December, 2014.

The report of the Advisory Group covers contemporary issues and challenges in respect of the Ministries of Power, Coal and Renewable Energy. The main recommendations of the Advisory Group, inter-alia, include enhancement of coal production; opening up of the coal sector; coal block auction; coal linkage rationalization; swapping of coal linkage; amendments to Electricity Act, Tariff Policy, Standard Bidding Documents; 24X7 Power Supply; distribution sector reforms; improvement in working of Central Electricity Authority (CEA); accelerating hydro power projects; role of Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO); phasing out of old and inefficient thermal power plants; large scale capacity addition of renewable energy; green energy transmission corridors; incentivizing renewable capacity addition; obligating generating companies to set up renewable power generation; priority in purchase of renewable power by distribution utilities etc.

(c) : The recommendations made by the Advisory Group contains various short, medium and long term measures. Steps have already been taken towards implementation of recommendations of the Advisory Group which, inter-alia,

Coal:

â€¢ Transparent auction of coal blocks;

â€¢ 100 % crushed coal supply by coal India to all power plants;

â€¢ setting up of new washeries;

â€¢ introduction of 3rd party sampling of coal;
â€¢ incorporation of separate SPVs for implementation of three major critical rail projects;

â€¢ MoU signed between Coal India Limited (CIL) and Ministry of Railways for procurement of 2000 railway wagons;

â€¢ rationalisation of coal linkages for 17 thermal power plants;
â€¢ guidelines regarding flexibility in utilization of domestic coal;

Power:

Generation

â€¢ CEA has identified 57 power plants, which are more than 25 year old, for its conversion to Super Critical Technology;

â€¢ collection of information for phasing out of old & inefficient thermal power plants by CEA;

â€¢ formulation of state specific action plan for 24X7 Power for All;

Transmission

â€¢ The Union Cabinet approved formation of POSOCO as an independent Government Company;

â€¢ prepared 20 years perspective plan for transmission;

Distribution

â€¢ introduced comprehensive reforms in distribution sector by implementing Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) and Ujwal Discoms Assurance Yojana (UDAY);

Reforms & Energy Efficiency

â€¢ formulated amendments in Electricity Act;
â€¢ Tariff Policy notified;
â€¢ amendments in the Standard Bidding Documents;

â€¢ Perform Achieve and Trade(PAT) cycle-II started from April, 2016;

â€¢ under demand side management national LED programme launched for domestic LED and LED street lighting;

Renewable Energy:

â€¢ implementation of green energy corridors;

â€¢ the potential for renewable energy have been reassessed to 1096 GW and a target for renewable energy has been increased to 175 GW by 2022;

â€¢ enhancement of solar Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) to 8% or as fixed by Central Government by March, 2020;

â€¢ introduction of Renewable Generation Obligation (RGO) for new Coal/Lignite based thermal plants;

â€¢ ensuring affordable renewable power through bundling of renewable power;
â€¢ no inter-state transmission charges and losses for solar and wind power;
â€¢ reintroduced Accelerated Depreciation (AD) benefit for wind power;
â€¢ a policy for repowering of wind power projects.

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